

Clinical: Public Health services - vaccination
Proactive release: 17 October 2019



07 October 2019

9(2)(a)

E-mail: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 11 September 2019 as a partial transfer of 3 questions from the Ministry of Health under section 14 of the Official Information Act.

You noted that you are working on a story on Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine uptake, and requested the following information:

- 1. The number of schools offering the vaccine, over the past ten years,**
- 2. The number of women, who received the vaccine in schools, over the past ten years,**
- 3. The number of women, who received the vaccine outside of schools, over the past ten years,**
 - *If possible, it would be great to get that information by year, so that I can demonstrate how the adoption rate has changed.*

In the Ministry of Health transfer of the initial request, they have indicated they would reply to two questions:

4. *The number of men who received the vaccine over the past ten years.*
5. *I am also looking for some data/ research, which shows the effect that the vaccine has had, or that indicates what effect we expect it to have going forward.*

Please note for context that in New Zealand between 2008 and 2016 years, HPV immunisation was free for girls and young women up to their 20th birthday, including non-residents under the age of 16 and living in New Zealand for more than 8 months. On 01 January 2017, HPV immunisation became free for everyone, male and female, aged 09-26 years, including non-residents aged less than 18 years. HPV immunisation is available through participating schools, or from family doctors, local health centres and some Family Planning clinics.

Children are currently offered the vaccine in Year-8 at school, either through a school-based immunisation programme, or through their family doctor, where a school programme is not available. The National Immunisation Register (NIR) data only holds the total number of vaccines given, and doesn't capture where vaccination occurred (school, or via other health services).

Counties Manukau DHB (CMDHB) provides services to meet the health needs of approximately 569,400 people residing in Counties Manukau and Franklin district. CM Health offers a school-based HPV vaccination programme to all schools within the Counties Manukau catchment area.

This year, 106 schools, and approximately 7,756 Year-8 students (boys and girls) are eligible to participate in the HPV program. The programme is delivered in schools by the Kidz First Public Health Nurses, employed by CM Health.

Responses for the Counties Manukau region are as follows:

1. The number of schools offering the vaccine, over the past ten years.

The number of schools that have participated in the HPV programme each year, over the last ten (10) years are detailed below (table 1).

Year	Number of participating schools	Timeline
2009	127	HPV programme commenced – [included secondary school-aged girls]
2010	125	
2011	97	
2012	86	HPV programme - offered to Year-8 girls
2013	86	
2014	97	
2015	101	
2016	95	
2017	106	HPV (year-8) programme - extended to include boys
2018	104	
2019	106	

Table 1

**Please note that the data has been collated from the School-based Vaccination System (SBVS) database, used by Counties Manukau DHB over the past ten years.*

Please note, the fluctuating numbers of schools from 2011 onwards is mainly due to some rural schools (with year 1-13 students) having changes in numbers of eligible enrolments from year-to-year, that affects their participation in the HPV programme. In the CM Health region, some religious-based schools also decline to participate in the school-based programme. In 2019, this equates to five schools with small enrolled numbers.

2. The number of women who received the vaccine in schools, over the past ten years.

Vaccine coverage rates for the past 10 years, are detailed below (table 2). We have interpreted this to be everyone having completed the scheduled course, rather than having received a single vaccine, as these numbers differ. For clarity, we have provided both totals for each cohort in the table. These uptake numbers should be considered in the context of the changing access to the programme over the last 10 years.

Year of programme	Eligible female population	Eligible Cohort Born (year)	Number of females fully vaccinated	Number of females received just Dose 1
2009	3,950	1996	1,612	1,872
2010	3,820	1997	1,630	1,709
2011	3,810	1998	1,514	1,615
2012	3,860	1999	1,574	1,772
2013	3,980	2000	1,540	1,774
2014	3,930	2001	1,615	1,778
2015	3,860	2002	1,584	1,904
2016	3,830	2003	1,603	1,839
2017	3,880	2004	1,757	1,973
2018	3,780	2005	1,665	1,908
2019	3,990	2006	279 <i>*(HPV programme in progress)</i>	1,969

Table 2

Note: The table details the number of eligible females domiciled in the Counties Manukau DHB, and who have received all the recommended scheduled doses of the vaccine, in the period 01/09/2008 - 01/09/2018 [as per the National Immunisation Register DataMart report, by cohort]. The numbers vaccinated between dose 1 and dose 3/2 can vary significantly.

3. The number of women who received the vaccine outside of schools, over the past ten years.

At present, there is no reporting available to determine if a vaccine was administered at a school, or in another setting (such as Primary Care). However, our experience to date indicates that most students in our region receive the vaccine as part of the school-based programme. It is thought by our services that less than 5% of these vaccinations are delivered by a General Practitioner.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health